

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 59

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to urge President Donald J. Trump and the United States Congress to enact legislation to distribute federal transportation funding to the states by block grant.

WHEREAS, growing dissatisfaction with federal transportation policy and mismanagement of the federal highway trust fund have encouraged many in Congress and state governments nationwide to seek ways to overhaul the system to the benefit of the American taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, funded primarily by motorists and truckers who pay a series of user taxes, federal transportation policy has lost its focus as to the use of the federal highway trust fund; and

WHEREAS, federal highway funds are now diverted to a multitude of non-road purposes through federally-legislated mandates and earmarks that dictate how states can expend the funding they receive; and

WHEREAS, additionally, states are required to enact or adopt specific statutes and rules to even qualify for federal monies or maintain eligibility for federal funding of highway programs; and

WHEREAS, one remedy to address this critical fiscal issue would be the development of a block grant distribution plan whereby each state would receive from the federal highway trust fund a block grant equal to the federal fuel tax revenues raised within its borders and would be entitled to spend such grant on transportation priorities of its own choosing; and

WHEREAS, combined with the elimination of federal mandates, a block grant program would be in the best interests of the people of Tennessee as it would enable us to self-

-determine our transportation priorities and address longstanding highway infrastructure needs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly urges President Donald J. Trump and the United States Congress to enact legislation to establish a transportation block grant funding program for distribution to the states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly also urges the enactment of legislation to repeal all federal mandates, either by statute, rule, or policy, that dictate the expenditure of federal transportation funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.